

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 06041 230522Z

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ACTION SS-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3700

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6041

LIMDIS

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: APER, EFIN, RP
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL OFFICER FOR USADB STAFF

1. I HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY REX BEACH, U.S. DIRECTOR OF ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF RECRUITING ADDITIONAL OFFICER FOR HIS STAFF. PURPOSE OF NEW RECRUIT WOULD BE TO ENHANCE BANK CONTRACTING AND ACQUISITION FROM U.S. SOURCES.

2. U.S. DIRECTOR'S STAFF AT BANK IS ALREADY CONSPICUOUSLY THE LARGEST THERE, AND IN LIGHT OUR RELATIVELY MODEST RECORD OF SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BANK, IT WOULD, IN MY JUDGEMENT, BE EMBARRASSING TO INCREASE IT. MOREOVER, ANY INCREASE WOULD REQUIRE A QUESTIONABLE EXEMPTION TO BALPA CEILINGS.

3. RATHER THAN INCREASE SIZE OF OUR REPRESENTATION, I PREFER EXAMINE WHY IT IS WE ARE SO EXTRAORDINARILY LARGE. ANSWER VERY CLEARLY IS THAT WE REQUIRE OUR STAFF TO UNDERTAKE GREAT DEAL OF MAKEWORK PAPER SHUFFLING TO SATISFY CRAVINGS OF WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY. ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF PAPER FLOWS BETWEEN MANILA AND WASHINGTON, BECAUSE ALL DETAILS OF U.S. DIRECTOR'S WORK ARE SUBJECTED TO SCRUTINY OF NAC STAFF BEFORE ANY ACTION CAN BE TAKEN.

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PAGE 02 MANILA 06041 230522Z

4. I FRANKLY FAIL TO SEE WHAT IS ACCOMPLISHED BY THIS

REFERRAL TO A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO SIT SO FAR AWAY FROM THE LOCUS OF THE BANK'S WORK THAT THEY CAN NOT POSSIBLY RENDER USEFUL JUDGEMENT ON MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION. MOREOVER, I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND WHY WE MAINTAIN A HIGHLY SKILLED PROFESSIONAL STAFF ATTACHED TO THE BANK IF THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED (AS ARE OTHER NATIONAL DIRECTORS) TO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE JUDGEMENTS ON BANK FUNCTIONS.

5. ANSWER SEEMS TO BE THAT, BY SPREADING THE RESPONSIBILITY, EVERYONE FEELS MORE COMFORTABLE, ESPECIALLY WITH GAO. ON OTHER HAND, I AM CONFIDENT BEACH AND HIS DEPUTIES CAN ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES INHERENT IN THE JUDGEMENTS TO BE MADE IF THE WHOLE NAC REFERRAL PROCESS COULD BE SHIFTED FROM A MANDATORY TO A DISCRETIONARY ROLE.

6. THIS SEEMS TO ME AN APPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR RESOLUTION BY THE UNDER SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE ISSUE OF RECRUITING ADDITIONAL STAFF. SINCE TREASURY SEEMS TO BE THE PRINCIPAL PROTAGONIST IN THIS MATTER, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU UNDERTAKE TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AND REDUCE OUR ADB FUNCTION HERE TO MORE NORMAL PROPORTIONS.
SULLIVAN

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